



**Representative
Dave Upthegrove**

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Representative **Dave Upthegrove**

2002 Legislative Report

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your new State Representative!

The legislative session is underway in Olympia, and I am working hard to support legislative solutions to the challenges facing our community:

- The slowdown in the airline industry – and our local economy
- The urgent need for repairs and upgrades in the Kent and Highline public schools
- Traffic congestion in South King County
- Safety and security, especially around Sea-Tac Airport

Born and raised in this community, I believe in putting our local concerns ahead of partisan politics.

I approach the legislative process as an opportunity to work together to solve problems in a bipartisan manner. In this newsletter you'll find information about my priorities for this session. I am supporting a balanced and pragmatic agenda aimed at improving our day to day lives in South King County. I would value and appreciate your feedback and input. Please call, email, or write with your questions, comments or suggestions. I take your input seriously and am here to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Upthegrove".

Dave Upthegrove
State Representative
33rd Legislative District

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ECONOMY

Our economy is hurting. Not only is the state budget suffering, but so too are personal budgets – due to layoffs or stock market fluctuations. In

I am supporting legislation to help laid-off workers with expanded worker retraining programs

South King County we've been hit especially hard by the huge downturn in the airline industry. As someone who grew up in an airline

family – both my parents worked in the aviation industry – I know how important Sea-Tac Airport and Boeing are to the local economy. In this climate, when local working families face uncertain economic futures, I believe that the state has a role to play. That's why I am supporting legislation to help laid-off workers with expanded worker retraining programs. But I also think we need to take a balanced approach. That's why I am also supporting legislative efforts to strengthen and support economic development opportunities for local businesses.

EDUCATION

Supermajority Rules

As a member of the House Education Committee, my goal is to ensure that every child has access to a world-class education.

Most people recognize that quality public schools create strong communities that improve our quality of life. What then is preventing our kids from getting a world-class education?

59 percent of the voters in Kent wanted to improve their public schools last year. 59 percent of Federal Way and Highline voters wanted to improve the quality of their children's education as well.

59 percent, however, wasn't enough.

Throw out what you learned in civics class. We don't follow the most basic tenet of democracy when it comes to education. It's not majority rules, it's "supermajority" rules.

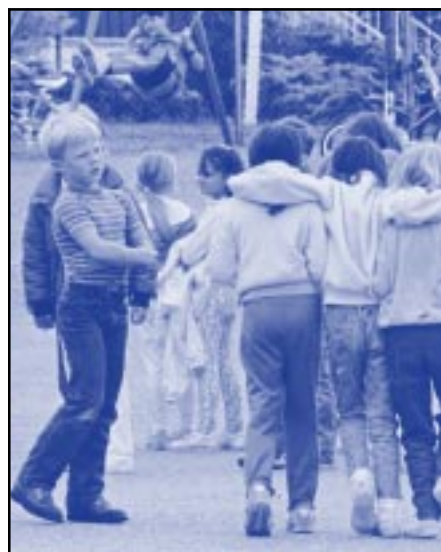
It takes a supermajority – 60 percent – to pass a school bond or levy to improve the education of our children.

That's why I am co-sponsoring legislation to eliminate the supermajority requirement for school bonds and levies. It upsets me that the physical infrastructure of our schools hasn't improved very much since when I was a student at Gregory Heights Elementary School.

We need to change this supermajority requirement for our children and for our future.

Safety in Schools

I am a strong supporter of stopping the malicious bullying and violence that torments



nearly one in three middle and high school students. It will be one of my top priorities in the Legislature this year — making our schools safe for students so that bullies don't interfere with the learning process. While

we are working to protect our nation's borders and cities, we must not forget to protect our kids as well.

I am co-sponsoring legislation to eliminate the supermajority requirement for school bonds and levies.

TRANSPORTATION

Washington State is in a serious transportation crisis. We have ended up in this situation because over the last 20 years we have not invested enough in our transportation system at a time of booming population growth and burgeoning economic activity.

Investments in transportation to reduce local traffic congestion are critical to our quality of life and our local economy. People shouldn't have to waste time stuck in traffic, and businesses should be able to get their goods to market in an efficient manner.

I believe it's time to reinvest in our transportation system and get traffic moving again in South King County.

While I oppose across-the-board tax increases to balance the general fund budget, I believe it's time to reinvest in our transportation system and get traffic moving again in South King County. In order to

best use these transportation dollars, I am also supporting tough efficiency and cost savings measures. We need to insure that smart public transportation alternatives are included in any transportation package. As we reduce traffic congestion, we all will save time and save money. Our local economy – which is hurting right now – will also benefit from new investments and improvements.



SAFETY & SECURITY

The tragic events of September 11 have left many people with a sense of unease about their own safety and security here at home. I believe the state has a responsibility to ensure that our local facilities, such as Sea-Tac Airport, meet the highest possible safety and security standards.

With more than 18,000 employees on-site, and 28.4 million passengers a year, Sea-Tac remains a uniquely vulnerable institution for those who might seek to intentionally endanger the safety of travelers, aircraft, or our community.



The economic health of Washington State is highly dependent on the security of air travel, and the security and vitality of SeaTac airport in particular.

The House of Representatives has created a new Select Committee on Community Security, which will be responsible for assessing our state's capacity to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack. The committee will focus on state and local law enforcement agencies and emergency response teams.

I believe the state has a responsibility to ensure that our local facilities, such as Sea-Tac Airport, meet the highest possible safety and security standards.

I will work closely with the Security committee to ensure that our State Emergency Management Agency's review of our critical infrastructure facilities, such as SeaTac airport, is thorough and complete.

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State Rep. Dave Upthegrove's February Drop-In Hours

February 23rd, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Des Moines Library
21620 11th Ave S
Des Moines, WA 98198

February 23rd, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Valley View Library
17850 Millitary Rd S
Seattle, WA 98198

February 24th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Kent Regional Library
212 2nd Ave N
Kent, WA 98032

"If you can't join me on one of these dates, please call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 or my office at (360) 786-7868.

I'd love to hear from you!"

— Dave